

**COMMITTEE MINUTES for  
AGRICULTURE & NATURAL RESOURCES  
APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE**

**Date:** February 13, 2001

**Place:** Room 118

**Convened:** 9:58 AM   **Recessed:**   **Reconvened:**   **Adjourned:** 11:19 AM

**Present:** Senators Gaskill-CH, Sexton-VC, Black-RM, Fink, Greiner  
Representatives Drake-CH, Kettering-VC, Mertz-RM, Baudler, Eddie, Hahn,  
May, Quirk, Schrader

Co-Chairman Thurman Gaskill called the meeting to order in Room 118, February 13, 2001, at 9:58 a.m. The roll was called. All members were in attendance. Senator Black moved to approve the minutes as distributed.

Senator Gaskill introduced Jim Gulliford, Administrator of the Soil Conservation Division, Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship, who provided an overview of the Division's operations. Mr. Gulliford reviewed information from three handouts. The 2000 Conservation Program Summary included information discussing the status of the Iowa Watershed Protection Program, Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP), Soil Conservation Cost Share Program, Integrated Farm and Livestock Management Demonstration Program, the Buffer Initiative, the Mine Reclamation Enhancement Program, and the Sustainable Agriculture Grants Program. He presented additional information regarding these programs in a second brochure, and concluded the program with the proposed FY 2002 Soil Conservation Funding Decision Package. He stressed the need for additional funding to finance the hiring of 26 new field technicians to effectively carry out the program. Question and discussion followed the presentation.

Senator Gaskill introduced David Flakne, State Government Relations Manager, Syngenta Crop Protection, who provided an update on the history and research done on the corn herbicide, atrazine. He noted research resulting in adaptations now in place that have reduced recommended application per acre. These new management practices have significantly reduced groundwater contamination. After viewing the results of extensive testing, EPA is proposing changing the classification of atrazine to "not likely to be carcinogenic to humans." Questions and discussion followed the presentation.

Senator Gaskill introduced Chad Graeve, Pottawattamie County Conservation Board, who discussed the Hitchcock Nature Center in the Loess Hills region of the State. Proposed plans call for the development of the area, located near the intersection of I-80 and I-29, to conserve and showcase the unique composition and history of the area. With development still in the planning stages, Mr. Graeve was optimistic about project funding coming from tourism grants and private donors. Questions and discussion followed the presentation.

Representative Mertz moved to arise, and the meeting was adjourned at 11:19 a.m.

Gerry Gaskill, Secretary